CONNECTICUT · COLLEGE · FOR · WOMEN
NEW LONDON
PLANTATUM · EST
1911

Chapters in the History of Connecticut College

Chapters in the History of
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
during the first three administrations
1911-1942

Compiled by

IRENE NYE

First Edition

New London, Connecticut

1943

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY J. J. LITTLE & IVES COMPANY, NEW YORK

DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO HAVE
BEEN A PART OF THE HISTORY
OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

"Horas non numero nisi serenas."

Photography Credits

GEORGE S. AVERY, JR.
FRANCES H. BRETT
CHAMPLAIN STUDIOS
GOTTSCHO-SCHLEISNER
MARJORIE JEPHSON
CAROLINE B. RICE
WILLIAM M. RITTASE
ROSS-TAYLOR
ROBERT W. TEBBS
EDNA LEIGHTON TYLER
UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD
AND OTHERS

First Administration

CONNECTICUT · COLLEGE · FOR · WOMEN
NEW LONDON
PLANTATUM · EST
SECUS · DECURSUS · AQUARUM
TANQUAM · LIGNUM · QUOD
1911

The First Faculty

Dr. David D. Leib

Dean Irene Nye

Miss Elizabeth Caramossi Wright

New London Hall and Blackstone

THE COLLEGE HILLTOP—NEW LONDON HALL—PLANT—BLACKSTONE

Dormitories—Plant and Blackstone

Plant House

East Entrance to New London Hall

Dr. Frederick H. Sykes

THE COLLEGE OPENS

"Bon Voyage!" said Dr. Sykes. He waved his hand to dismiss the first assembly of students and faculty gathered on the morning of September 27, 1915, in room 313 of New London Hall. All scattered to register for the first year's classes. In the old whaling town of New London the ship was launched!

At that time very few apparently had discovered the beauties of the college hill as a place of residence, and scarcely more than half a dozen houses had been built on Mohegan and Nameaug Avenues. No museum then at Allyn Place, no Coast Guard Academy, no sidewalks nor paving on Mohegan. There were, however, two houses standing a little distance apart on what became college property somewhat to the north of Reservoir Street where it joins Mohegan. When they fell into the hands of the college, someone had the idea of connecting these two by means of a long gallery wide enough to make a fairly spacious hall. The fireplace was built of boulders from the campus; and there on a floor partially laid that very forenoon the first students and the first faculty of the college partook of the first luncheon on that sunny Monday when my story begins.

It was a happy and indeed a stirring occasion. But that was not quite the first meal that had been served there. On the evening of the Saturday before, a single table had been set on that portion of the flooring that was finished, near the pantry door, for a small group to dine. The first presi-

dent of the college, Dr. Sykes, and Mrs. Sykes, Dr. Helen Bishop Thompson, first professor of Dietetics at Connecticut (now Home Economics), and Miss Margaret A. Proctor, who had come from Bryn Mawr to be the first Director of Residence, were of the party, and at the table with them for that initial dinner sat the three capable colored servants of the college who had made ready the dinner and who were working during those days of final preparation with a skill in their own line, and a zeal and enthusiasm unsurpassed to launch this new undertaking in which they all believed. That dinner stands for the ideals of friendship and democracy, of sympathetic and intelligent cooperation and appreciation, which Connecticut College has and would continue to have from the lowest to the highest of all those on whose service it depends and to whose needs it ministers.

HOW IT CAME TO OPEN

In 1910 there were 84,909 women enrolled in colleges in this country, representing an increase in twenty years of nearly 800 percent. In four of the leading colleges for women in the East the excess of applicants beyond the number that could be admitted rose in that year to almost 1600. Since a recent announcement that Wesleyan University at Middletown which had been coeducational for a considerable number of years had decided to receive women no longer, there was then within the state of Connecticut no institution offering a four-year college course to women.

In March 1910, a committee of the Hartford College Club, Miss Elizabeth Caramossi Wright, chairman, Mrs. E. V. Mitchell, and Miss Mary M. Partridge, undertook to test the attitude of the public toward the project of a new col-

lege. So great was the encouragement they received, that in June, at a meeting of representatives from various interested organizations, a General Site Committee was made up of the original three and Mr. Charles C. Cook and Colonel Charles M. Jarvis, all of Hartford or vicinity. More than twenty sites were offered in various parts of the state with promises of endowment ranging up to $100,000. In December at a meeting in the state library, the committee, believing that as this question concerned the entire state, it should not be decided by a local group, passed a resolution to form a larger board of incorporators. Oliver T. Gildersleeve of Gildersleeve, Frances S. Williams of Glastonbury, Mary C. Mitchell, Mary M. Partridge and Edward L. Smith, of Hartford, Elizabeth C. Wright of West Hartford, Elizabeth C. B. Buel of Litchfield, Colin S. Buell, A. H. Chappell and Bryan F. Mahan, of New London, H. H. Bridgman of Norfolk, and Edward D. Robbins of New Haven, who constituted the Board of Incorporators, met on Saturday, January 14, 1911, in the Center Church Parish House, Hartford, and unanimously voted to accept the site offered by the City of New London. On the 4th of April, 1911, the Connecticut General Assembly granted a charter to Thames College. In July by legislative vote the name was changed to Connecticut College for Women. The first Board of Trustees, elected by and succeeding to the incorporators, included the names of Judge Simeon E. Baldwin of New Haven, Mr. Edwin Milner of Moosup, Mr. Morton F. Plant, Mr. Frank L. Palmer of New London, and Dean Henry P. Wright of Yale College, as well as most of the earlier body, Mrs. Buel and Mr. Bridgman, only, having withdrawn.

Mr. Morton F. Plant, at that time residing in Groton, just across the river from New London, contributed at the sec-

ond meeting of the Board of Trustees the sum of one million dollars to start the endowment. The citizens of New London raised the money for New London Hall; Mr. Plant built and furnished the two original dormitories, Plant House and Blackstone, named for his father and mother. All three of these buildings were constructed of stone quarried on the campus. In the earliest bulletin of the college, which appeared later in the same year (1911), tribute was paid to the generosity of New London: "From their energetic mayor, Bryan F. Mahan, to their smallest schoolboy, New London people have shown their good will toward the college. . . . As a proof of this, witness the splendid donation of over a million dollars from the Honorable Mr. Morton F. Plant, witness the generous gift of fifty acres of land from Mrs. Harriet W. Allyn, the appropriation of $50,000 by the city, and the wonderful campaign of last March, in which the citizens under the guidance of the most prominent residents of New London turned out to a man and in ten days raised $135,000. . . . Some idea of the beautiful spirit of giving shown . . . may be gleaned from the fact that over 5,000 individuals contributed to the fund, many being among the poor of New London. To Mr. Colin S. Buell, who for years has cherished the idea of a college for women in Connecticut, is due the credit of exciting interest in New London and of conducting to a successful issue this remarkable collection of funds. . . ."

THE FIRST ADMINISTRATION

Over three hundred and twenty-nine acres of land were secured by the first trustees, including a gift of eighty acres from Mr. Frank Loomis Palmer; buildings were planned and begun, and in 1913 Frederick Henry Sykes, M.A., Ph.D., became the first president. A Canadian by birth, Dr. Sykes had taken his first two degrees at the University of Toronto and the doctorate at Johns Hopkins University; as professor or lecturer he had served on the staff at the Western University of Ontario, at Toronto, Johns Hopkins, Chicago and Columbia Universities; and as Director of Extension Teaching, of Technical Education, and later of Practical Arts, as well as Professor of English, at Teachers College. Various periods of study and travel in England, France and Germany had given him a cosmopolitan approach to problems of education. He was the author of "French Elements in Middle English," and of several English textbooks; the editor of various English texts; and the general editor of Scribner's English Classics Series. During the first two years of his incumbency a faculty of twenty-two members was selected; five buildings were completed including the heating plant; a well-chosen collection of two thousand volumes presented by Mrs. Thomas Harland of Norwich became the nucleus of a college library which grew rapidly through purchase and further gifts; the women graduates of Wesleyan offered their allegiance and their common chattels to the new college; a

freshman class of over one hundred was admitted; and on September 27, 1915, came the opening day.

It was at Thames Hall that the official inauguration took place on October 9th, 1915. The trustees, faculty, and invited guests assembled in New London Hall, whence the academic procession moved to Thames, stopping on the way for presentation at the flagstaff, west of Plant House at that time, of the national flag by the W. W. Perkins Auxiliary Corps, No. 18. After spirited addresses of welcome by the chairman of the Board of Trustees and the governor of the state, and congratulatory remarks by the presidents of all colleges in Connecticut and the other women's colleges in the East, came the inaugural address by Dr. Sykes. He spoke, and his listeners thrilled with the picture of a college "the most beautiful and spacious, the widest in scope of instruction, and the most steadfast in faith in woman and her abilities, so far founded on the earth." He felt the need of a college for women different from anything in existence; a college whose highly cultured graduates would be really fitted to help in the work of the world, and to assume places of immediate usefulness; a college that looked forward not backward; a college of breadth in its ideas and sympathies; truly religious but not sectarian, scientific, dynamic, democratic; a college for women, not a college for children merely old enough to be women; a college that from the first, by reason of its ideals and aims, by reason of its faculty even if small, should be individual. His conception of the education he would try to realize here was: "The union of the old education with the new, ideals of culture and character united with technical training, social direction, and human sympathy." With the background of the war then being waged in Europe, and the world changes Dr. Sykes foresaw,

his words, that day, his efforts later, took special significance.

That first autumn the campus immediately around the few buildings was almost a treeless place; it was still without walks or roads; the wind that swept through the quadrangle found not a blade of grass nor a leaf to quiver at its coming; but the sense of high adventure gave something better than cheer, and in the words of Dr. Sykes "though our feet were in the mud, our heads were in the clouds."

It was in front of the boulder fire-place at Thames that the chapel service at the beginning was held daily, that the vesper service took place on Sunday afternoon, that the informal social Friday evenings were spent in challenging conversation, music and stories. Somewhat later in that year, the chapel services and convocation were transferred to 208 New London Hall, then one of the largest recitation rooms. At the other end of the hall on the same floor, 212 was the president's office. In the story above, the library was housed in 301 for several years, gradually overflowing to the north and filling 313 also. The large south-east room on the top floor, 401, was assigned to the commuting students as a rest and study room.

As to the original course of study, the trustees in 1911 had made announcement: "There will be ample opportunity for studying all subjects approved by the colleges of best standing. In addition to these . . . the new college will endeavor to meet the demands of modern times and will offer vocational courses, so that students who intend to earn their own living may receive an ideal training in the work for which they are best fitted." This was elaborated by the first president in 1915 as follows: "Its scope of instruction includes the humanities, sciences and arts. The program of studies of every student has as a fixed requirement (a) cer-

tain studies regarded as universal elements in a liberal education (English, foreign language, history, science, and social science); (b) a serious and progressive study of some important branch of knowledge, in a related group; (c) incidental elective studies that give variety and richness to the intellectual life. Each of the groups a, b, c, occupies about one-third of the four-year course. Certain minor groups, open to election in conjunction with appropriate majors, offer preparation for particular vocations. In incorporating in its scheme of instruction at the outset various branches of technical training, Connecticut College prepares the way for the establishment of the technical schools it will seek to provide for the professional training of women in the fields of education, applied science, commerce and the arts." The group of general requirements (a) included also a short course in hygiene, and physical education for all, four days a week, during the four years of the course. The major groups (b) as originally announced were English, Greek and Latin, modern languages, history, social science, psychology and philosophy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, hygiene and physical education, dietetics, design in fine and applied art, and music. The minor groups projected in the first catalogue were education, household economy, library economy, secretarial studies, commerce, horticulture. Of these, one introductory course in library economy, and typing without credit alone were offered.

The bachelor's degree was to be given in both science and arts, differentiated by the major subject, and by the requirement of three entrance units in Latin for the arts degree. "Full student government in matters not academic," a pioneer step for those days, was granted in one of the early faculty meetings.

Not only that women are unlike men, but also that young women are not alike, that each one has her own particular interest, possibly her particular talent, which should by all means be discovered, encouraged and developed, that she may be able to offer the best service of which she is capable, this was in the minds of those founders, who considered that preparation for home making and motherhood should be made as honorable and as important as that for any profession. To be able to serve her friends and family with ability, knowledge and intelligence, to serve her community and her country with that ready and well-informed patriotism which both sees clearly and acts honorably, and beneath all this to serve herself by learning to discern what is fine, true, generous and permanent, and to discard the vulgar, false, selfish and transitory things that cheapen existence, and to realize that the education begun here will never be completed till the end of life—that was the ideal of President Sykes for each student.

The first class, the class of 1919, was admitted by a committee of trustees, with Professor Henry P. Wright, Dean of Yale College for forty years and eminent Latin scholar, acting as chairman. A committee of the faculty was soon after appointed to recommend an admission policy for the college and to pass on applicants seeking entrance for the next year. The leading women's colleges of the East had recently voted to admit freshmen thenceforth only by examination, and this decision had been given much publicity. The majority of the committee however were of the opinion that a complete report of good work in an approved school plus an unqualified recommendation of character and fitness from the principal gave promise of success in college as good as or sometimes better than the mere passing of en-

trance examinations. Accordingly the policy adopted was to admit without examination applicants presenting a high record and an unqualified recommendation. Other promising candidates might try the examinations.

In 1916 with the arrival of a second class another dormitory, Winthrop House, was completed, a field house which turned into the gymnasium was begun, and the following June Dr. Sykes resigned. In October came the news of his death.

Frederick Henry Sykes, an idealist and a dreamer, but at the same time a man of substantial flesh and blood, vigor and humor, whose hands liked to fashion things of use as his sensibility wrought lovely gems in verse; a family man, influenced and aided by Mrs. Sykes, whose extraordinary intellect, whose candid and ceaseless search for truth, left an impress on many a student. In a farewell message to the college, Dr. Sykes wrote: "Remember that the good that counts is good in action. Whatever you do, do it beautifully. . . ." Dr. Sykes' term here was short, it was a pioneer time which accomplished much with small means. Again and again as the alumnae of those early classes return to the campus, it is evident that the spirit of "work and song and love" which he hoped would suffuse life here, has taken a place in the spirit of those who knew him.

> Reminiscences presented in the outdoor theatre, on Saturday afternoon, October 12, 1935, at the Alumnae Weekend and the Twentieth Anniversary of the Opening of the College

Connecticut College as I first saw it forms still a clear picture in my mind. When the carriage that I had taken

at the station, with its two sedate horses under the direction of an old cabman (one of the two sole forerunners of New London taxi drivers), had deposited me at the south entrance of Thames Hall late in the afternoon of Saturday, September 25, in 1915, it was President Sykes himself who greeted me and smiling offered to show me to my room. We picked our way over lath and plaster, advanced along a temporary and somewhat hazardous boarding in the upper corridor until he indicated the opening through which I looked. "I wish that my room had a floor, I don't care so much for a door," was the first thought that came to my mind. The workmen, however, had left for the day, Dr. Sykes was about to return to the Mohican, so I gratefully accepted the offer of a bed in Blackstone for what proved to be the next two weeks. To be sure the conductor of the trolley car as I was coming back from supper in town passed the new college in the dark without noticing it and took me well on the way to Norwich, but another trolley brought me back and I found the dormitory, imposing enough as it stood up bare and stark amid the litter of construction all around. There was no electricity as yet, but there was an obliging watchman with his lantern and his dog, and I had a candle end. The three stories above ground were entirely empty but for me. The wind howled and shook casements and doors, for New London was giving the new faculty the same welcome that it still sometimes offers to the freshmen. The next night though still without light or heat I had a companion, for our first freshman had arrived from Texas and in the room next to mine was reading "Alice for Short" until her candle end was gone. There is no need to elaborate on those first days, nor to enumerate the many things we did without. I have told this much for a purpose, and as a sym-

bol of the spiritual characteristics of the place that impressed the members of the new faculty. "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, and to be young was very heaven"—that was the theme of Dr. Sykes' first chapel talk, and the spirit of youth filled the air; the college was young, the students were young, some of us were young and we all thought we were. It is true that almost immediately the girls were singing about the "dear old college" and talking of traditions, but that was only a manner of speaking. In reality for us all it was youth with all its incompleteness, its crudity, its mistakes, its eagerness, its enthusiasm, its abounding life. It was so easy to be alive, and exuberant; there were no fossilized joints to creak, but teachers and students, cooks and janitors, all together, absorbed in the new enterprise, "ever with a frolic welcome took the thunder and the sunshine".

Recalling the companions of that year, there was distinction in that first faculty. Dr. Coerne, Ph.D. in music from Harvard, fresh from the triumphal performance of his opera in Germany, the first American composition of the kind to be so honored, was here to produce his most mature work and to set the whole campus composing; Dr. Osborn, already eminent as a scientist at Columbia University, for eighteen years now chairman at the great State University of Ohio; Dr. Thompson, a dietitian already known throughout New England, in whose honor the earliest state college to emphasize Home Economics has named a great building, and now a divisional head at the University of California in Los Angeles; Professor Dondo, scholar, artist, sparkling lecturer and puppet showman, now also at California, but in Berkeley; Dr. Wood and Dr. Rondinella who left here for Wellesley and are still there; Mr. Selden, distinguished as a landscape artist, Mr. Bauer as a concert pianist, Dr. Kip as linguist and

philologist, were like Dr. Coerne, to complete their life's work here. Among the less experienced members, the name of Miss Barr stands out, now Nancy Barr Mavity, whose many Crime Club best sellers recall her lively class discussions on abnormal psychology and English writing. At the head stood President Sykes, of wide repute as an educator for work in Canada and New York City, and for two years fascinating interpreter to the college of Kipling, of Dickens, of Shakespeare. . . . The members of that first faculty and administration who are still here, Miss Wright, Miss Cary, Mr. Weld and myself you all know.

Some of those first teachers are gone; others are getting old; but the college does not grow old. Life is change and change is life and by continual change and growth an institution finds the secret of eternal youth, it is always being made. And it is the entire group, workmen, students, alumnae, faculty, administration, trustees, standing shoulder to shoulder, that must do the making.

Second Administration

Bolleswood

Freshman Pageant, May 1921

The Old Tennis Courts, 1920

Faculty—Senior Soccer Team, 1922

PREPARING FOR—

Library on the March, 1923

Looking to the Northeast

Thames Hall—Trolley Goes by the Door

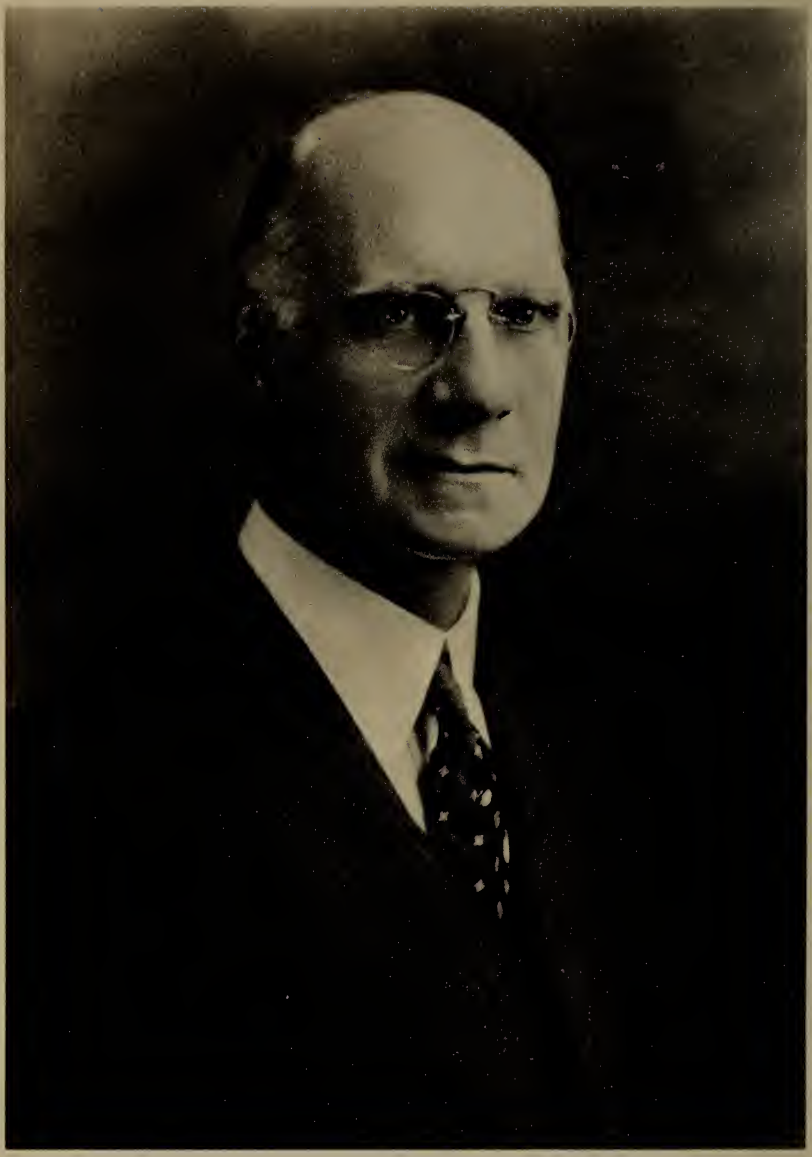
The Gym

The Garden in Back of Vinal

West Entrance

Looking toward the Quadrangle

Branford House



Dr. Benjamin T. Marshall

ANOTHER ADMINISTRATION

In the college gymnasium, just completed, Benjamin Tinkham Marshall, A.M., B.D., was inaugurated as the second president of Connecticut College in November, 1917. A graduate of Dartmouth College with a degree in divinity from Union Theological Seminary, after experience in pastorates at Scarborough and New Rochelle, he came to Connecticut from a term of five years at Dartmouth as college pastor and professor of Biblical history and literature. Everyone at Connecticut from September 1917, up to June of 1928, remembers President Marshall, tall and stately as George himself, heading the grand march of the masquerade on each successive Washington's Birthday, and Hallowe'en, or presiding as king of the Twelfth Night feast, or receiving the students in his home, with Mrs. Marshall, whose warm smile and ready sympathy brought cheer to each, by his side; President Marshall rushing the faculty team to victory in soccer against the seniors; President Marshall with his magnificent voice reading modern poetry, preaching at vespers, or leading the Christmas celebration; President Marshall breaking ground in the morning drizzle for the Palmer Library, and later directing the long line of students and faculty laden with books, the library itself on the march to its new quarters; President Marshall making flap-jacks at a picnic in the woods; or examining his classes in Biblical literature; . . . always sharing with the rest the fun and the toil, encouraging, exhorting, generous, sympathetic . . .

everywhere, in work or play . . . among us, before us . . . that rugged jaw . . . that shining pate . . . the Helmet of Navarre!

Extract from the 1923 Koiné

It is a difficult task to attempt an appreciation in other or more effective words than have been already spoken or sung of "Our Prex". There are people in our individual lives upon whom we count for sympathy, whatever ratio of fortune ours may be; but it is more certainly a greater character that manifests steadily friendship, understanding and a near-patriarchal tolerance for each year's superabounding crucible of diverse personalities. No occasion that might in any way benefit the college lacks the support of his kindly advice, his encouragement and his comprehensive address. What member of our "road company" will ever forget his driving Connecticut College dramatic talent over many miles of wintry road to present, perchance, "The Maker of Dreams" in the interest of the endowment fund, and his gathering all together for hot coffee and quantities of nourishment? A small thing, this last, perhaps, but in collegiate vernacular, "potent". We could write further, but, eulogy fashioned to an ode is eulogy maimed. We cease with our variation of an honored phrase, "We, who are about to leave these gates, salute thee—Caesar".

An Early Flowering—the Creative Impulse at Connecticut College—Gathered from the Connecticut College News

May, 1919: "Halt, Cecilia!", original musical comedy success, both words and music written by students. November, 1919: "Noche de Mayo", Spanish play written by a member of the faculty, presented by Spanish Club. November, 1919: Prize of $25 for ribbon design won by student, in a contest arranged by "Woman's Wear", at an exhibition held in New York by the Art Alliance of America. April, 1920: "O, Aladdin!", second original musical comedy success. May, 1920: Plans for the publication of a college song book with original songs. (It appeared later.) June, 1920: Culmination of two months contest between classes, in which each gave a program of college songs, all with original words and music. "Alma Mater by the Sea" chosen as winner. October, 1920: Prize of $250 won by graduate of 1919 in a Lace Curtain Design Competition, instituted by the Architectural League of New York. December, 1920: Designs executed by students in Art Department sold to Graffin and Dolson of New York. March, 1921: One first award and five honorable mentions for stage setting designs for Professor Baker's "47 Workshop" plays at Harvard, won by student, ex-member of '22. May, 1921: "Pierrot the Pirate", third musical comedy, given three times, in Norwich, New London and at the college. Summer, 1921: "Rosas y Espinas Misticas" published in Madrid, by a member of the faculty. January, 1922: Three members of the class of '21 received first mentions in the judgments awarded by the Beaux Arts Institute of Design of New York, on its open competitive problems. In second competitive program of the same, they received one

first mention and two second medals. January, 1922: At Sykes Memorial Concert a program entirely of compositions by chairman of music department given. February, 1922: "Silhouettes Crépusculaires" by member of faculty published in Europe with favorable reviews. March, 1922: C. C. Quarterly makes its first appearance. March, 1922: "In the Eyes of the East" appears, by an ex-member of the faculty. May, 1922: "The Poppy Trail", fourth original musical comedy presented by the students. October, 1922: "Libros y Autores Clasicos", vol. I, appears, by recent member of the faculty. November, 1922: Picture by chairman of Art Department in exhibition of National Academy of Design, New York City. Also seven pictures by same in Old Lyme exhibit the preceding summer. January, 1923: Connecticut College represented in "Unbound Anthology" by seven poems, four by members of the faculty, three by students. 1923: "A Dinner of Herbs" (poems) published by a member of the first faculty, and 1924: "Hazard" (fiction) by same. May, 1925: "The Bells of Beaujolais", operetta composed by late chairman of music department presented at college. 1925: "Gold of Ophir" by ex-member of faculty published. October, 1927: Graduate of '26 received two first mentions in competition held by Beaux Arts Society of Architects, and a prize of $50. March, 1928: First prize in the poetry contest held by "The Writer" won by a graduate of '21, whose poems have already appeared in two anthologies of modern verse, and in more than twenty magazines and journals. November, 1928: Graduate of '23 author of play produced on Broadway with favorable reviews. February, 1929: Novel by graduate of '23 published by Simon and Schuster. July, 1929: Faculty member awarded prize of $100 from

the National Anthem Competition for setting of M. P. King's Hymn of Freedom.

Service League and Social Service

Certainly one of the most popular student organizations during the decade of 1919-1929 was the Service League. The various activities of the League beyond our campus included: an annual delegation to Silver Bay Student Conference on Lake George; one member each year at "Junior Month" sponsored by the New York Charity Organization Society, in which twelve colleges were invited to participate; gifts and workers went to Christadora and Hudson Guild Settlement Houses in New York City as well as to Felicia, the summer camp of the Guild; membership in the Intercollegiate Service Association; boxes for Caney Creek mission in Kentucky; cooperation with the New London Associated Charities, the Bradley Street Mission, the Y. W. C. A., especially in Club Work and with the Girl Reserves; establishing and conducting a "Children's Pleasure House" for movies at the New London Vocational High School; and work at the Jay Street Community House, initiated by the Anna Hempstead Branch Association under the name of Charter House, where among various projects old arts and crafts were revived by student art majors, and games and dances taught and festivals staged by others interested in physical education and dramatics.

Hands Across the Sea

First World War echoes from Connecticut College News: December, 1917: Under President Marshall, chairman of the entire New England section, Connecticut College contributes $4,678.68 to the National Student Friendship Fund for the relief of students and teachers in Europe, suffering as a result of the war. February 13, 1918: Service League Thé Dansant for War Fund. . . . Red Cross distributes 238 hanks of knitting yarn at college . . . Connecticut College contributes $600 to the Edith Wharton Memorial Hospital in France. April 10, 1918: Class of 1919 buys $500 Liberty Loan Bond. No Junior Prom for this class. May 17, 1918: Belgian Bazaar under Mademoiselle Ernst's direction on Mohican Roof culminates fund of $1,651.21 for working girls in Brussels, Belgium. October, 1918: Allied War Fund Concert nets $40. . . . Service flag with six stars displayed in gymnasium . . . Old clothes and the Belgian Relief. . . . Farmerettes and yeomanettes. . . . November 11, 1918: Entire college joins in Armistice Day Parade through New London. December, 1918: College gives $3,933.67 to United War Work Campaign Fund. February 19, 1919: Tea Dance for War Fund, $250. May 7, 1919: Dance, $90. May 10, 1919: "Halt, Cecilia!" nets $300 for the Belgian Relief Fund. May 13, 1919: Cecilia halts again in Norwich. $250 cleared. Summer of 1919: $167.23 sent to University of Louvain, proceeds of French play. November 6, 1919: Professor Ernst invited to New York for an audience with the Queen of the Belgians and awarded the Cross of Queen Elizabeth.

Junior Class Mascots

From an address at the Junior banquet of the class of 1930, in the Mohican roof garden, March 19, 1929: "Eleven years ago, in the early spring of 1918, in one of the small dining rooms of this house, the first junior class of Connecticut gathered for the first Junior banquet. When the time came for the after-dinner program to begin, the president of the class suddenly assumed a commander's cap and lo! a jaunty little submarine slipped down with a splash into a miniature ocean and the first mascot floated revealed. They sang:

Oh, we're the class 1919
The first class in the college;
Our mascot is a submarine,
We dive so deep we're seldom seen
Upon the sea of knowledge.

In those days the college owned an insignificant little shed which was dignified by the name of boathouse and stood on the river bank about opposite Blackstone. It was originally a construction shed used during the building of Plant, Blackstone, and New London Hall, and later had been moved down the hill to house the class row boats, and private canoes kept by the students. As it looked much in need of a coat of paint that spring, some students had camouflaged it gaily in stripes. Now the class of 1919 had provided a boathouse for their submarine, which might have been mistaken for a pasteboard box had it not been painted in such a way as to suggest the real boathouse, and into this box the submarine was retired soon after its splashing introduction into society.

Those were the days of primitive simplicity before the tradition was established that the sophomores must get possession of the juniors' mascot, and the class president that night slept in her Blackstone room with an unlocked door, and woke next morning very much surprised to find no boathouse and no submarine. Instead of rousing the college by a cry of 'stop thief', however, the canny president quietly procured an identical submarine at the 10-cent store, transformed another box into a boathouse by a few stripes of paint, and gaily led the procession of her class to Thames Hall at six p.m., bearing in triumph the mascot to be presented to the rest of the college. Imagine the feelings of the previously-gloating sophomores! Was the real mascot the one presented at the banquet, or had it been kept in safety to appear later? That is the true story of the origin of the mascot hunts at Connecticut College.

"The next year the mascot of 1920 was a really, truly live dog named Pep, but he soon became too peppy to adjust himself to college routine and had to be represented by a more docile substitute, in the shape of a little stuffed terrier. The third class at their banquet unveiled a replica of the Good Fairy who stretched out her gracious arms to all the world. The banquets were still being held in the so-called Dutch room, and it was there the following spring that the first elaborate mascot was presented by the class of 1922, an Indian totem-pole, hand carved, illustrating in genuine Indian picture language events of each year the class had spent at the college, ending with the Indian legend of Bolleswood used as the basis for the first freshman pageant given at Connecticut.

"Since that time the classes have grown larger and the mascots more costly. With the class of 1923 the banquets

moved to the main dining room where a sphinx was presented on a desert of sand surrounded by camels and palm trees. You all have seen the beautiful Viking ship, the Long Serpent, made by Professor Selden, for the class of 1924. Again a lighthouse which held the real mascot-lantern of '25, stood towering in the middle of the room and suddenly blazed with light as the class president arose to speak. The bronze lion of '26 on Knowlton's front door, the crusader's sword of '27 in Branford, the unicorns on the bronze plaque of '28, and the clipper ship of '29 you all know. . . ."

During the years of Dr. Marshall's presidency here, the attendance increased from 265 to 569; the student body which in 1915 was 85% from Connecticut came to represent 26 states and one foreign country; to the seven buildings which he found here were added five more: North Cottage, Branford House, Vinal Cottage, Knowlton House, and the Palmer Library, which in 1928 was housing 33,055 books. It was under President Marshall that the first class was graduated in 1919, and under him the number of alumnae reached 784. As the gymnasium gradually came to be entirely inadequate for the commencement audiences, the custom of holding the graduation exercises under the sky in the quadrangle between Plant and Blackstone began in 1928. During this same period, Connecticut College was admitted to the approved list of the Association of American Universities and of the American Association of University Women. The faculty was increased from 34 to 61. As to the curriculum: in 1918, the existing department of Biology was divided into the two departments of Botany and Zoology, and Modern Languages into Romance Languages and German. In 1920, the name of Home Economics succeeded that of Dietetics as the department broadened its scope, and

the next year saw political science added to the department of History. In 1924, business administration was incorporated with economics and sociology in the department of Social Science; in 1925 work in astronomy began to be offered, and a department of Religious Education, succeeding to courses in Biblical history and literature, in 1929 became a major in Religion. A course in continental European literature, given in English and not connected with any department, was added.

In June, 1928, Dr. Marshall (D.D., honoris causa, Dartmouth, 1922) who had been professor of Biblical history and literature as well as president at Connecticut College for eleven years returned to the ministry. Upon the resignation of President Marshall, the conduct of the college until a successor should be chosen was given to a Presidential Committee of faculty members. A year later this committee reported to the trustees as follows: "The college year 1928-1929 in general has been marked by certain definite steps forward, of especial significance to members of the faculty, alumnae, and student body, but not without interest to that larger public of our increasing constituency. In the first place, during the year just passed there has been inaugurated alumnae representation on the Board of Trustees, to which we have been looking forward since the opening of the college. This year has also included . . . the adoption of a new and more liberal salary scale, and the first definite consideration by your board of a plan for retirement and Sabbatical leave with pay for members of the faculty. . . . We believe that we may count progress toward a better understanding between trustees and faculty, and between trustees and alumnae as among the achievements of the year.

"On another plane, but still among the noteworthy events

and decisions of the past year should be mentioned also the erection of Holmes Hall, a refectory for two hundred off-campus students; the adoption of plans for the new Fanning-Windham Hall, for recitation and administrative purposes, to be erected within the next eighteen months; and the announcement by the president of the Board of Trustees of his intention shortly to complete the library by the addition of two wings which will almost double its present capacity.

"Included in the general features of the past year, it may be reported that there have come to the college as usual many calls for addresses by members of the faculty throughout the state of Connecticut and elsewhere; numerous invitations for Connecticut College to be represented officially at important academic functions both far and near; hundreds of visitors arriving singly or in school and family groups, each, by questions, revealing more than a passing interest; and thousands of requests for information and material about the college from individuals, from preparatory schools, both public and private, and from other organizations. . . .

"As a final item under the year in general, let us add the continuation of the actual development and beautification of the grounds, including the beginning of a botanical garden. . . .

"As to the alumnae: The college has now graduated eleven classes with a total of 888 members. In addition to the General Alumnae Association the following chapters of Connecticut College alumnae have been organized: Boston, Chicago, Hartford, Meriden, New Haven, New Jersey, New London, New York, and Philadelphia. . . . On the week-end of February 22 last, according to what has come to be an established custom, the alumnae were invited back to the college. Considerably over 100 came, which seemed a satis-

factory response, in view of the fact that our graduates are scattered all over the world, that many are engaged in occupations which do not admit of a vacation at pleasure, and that the weather was unfavorable . . . On May 7, 1928, the faculty had voted to recognize students of high standing by naming them Winthrop Scholars . . . During Alumnae Week-end . . . the alumnae and undergraduate members were invited to meet under the leadership of Dr. Leib, who explained to them the significance of the honor as well as the significance of the name of Winthrop in American education. The members present voted to canvass the entire group of Winthrop Alumnae to see if they favored formal organization. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of a simple organization, to hold meetings at Commencement time and possibly at Alumnae Week-end. . . . For the last seven years a graduate secretary, with an office on the campus, has been employed by the students and alumnae together, to handle certain business connected with their various organizations. Another joint enterprise has been recently undertaken by these two groups, i.e., the establishment of a fund which shall ultimately be used toward a special building on the campus devoted to student-alumnae activities. . . .

"The major gifts announced during the year have been the provision for the addition of wings to the Palmer Library by the donor of that building, and the anonymous gift of $100,000 announced at Commencement . . . The residual estate of the late Mrs. Marinda C. Robinson, of Windham County, has been left to the college, the income to be used exclusively for scholarships. The college will come into the possession at an early date of a sum estimated in excess of

$30,000 and $10,000 additional upon the death of a life tenant. . . .

Respectfully submitted,

IRENE NYE
DAVID D. LEIB
HERBERT Z. KIP
Presidential Committee"

Third Administration

HARKNESS CHAPEL

Windham House

Living Room—
Windham House

Quadrangle—Grace Smith
and East House

The West Campus

West Entrance—Mary Harkness

Jane Addams

Dining Room—Jane Addams

Entrance to Arboretum

The Outdoor Theatre

Class Day—Outdoor Theatre

Alumnae Reunion
at Buck Lodge

Jumping

Riding in the Hemlocks

Palmer Library

Palmer Memorial Room

The West Campus
from Palmer Library

The Thames

New London Hall and Green House

Green House

Chemistry Laboratory

Growing Plants with Chemicals

Fanning Hall

West Campus

Bill Hall
and
Palmer Auditorium

Interior, Palmer Auditorium

On the Switchboard
During a Play

Entrance to
Palmer Auditorium

Zoology Laboratory

Making a Speech Record

At Work in the
Art Department

PREPARING A MEAL—EMILY ABBEY HOUSE

Right, 1942 AIRPLANE VIEW

NURSERY SCHOOL

Dr. Katharine Blunt

THE THIRD ADMINISTRATION

On May 16, 1930, a huge canvas tent, billowing and creaking in the morning sunshine, stretched from Plant House to Blackstone, almost filling the quadrangle, and in this "faut-de-mieux" auditorium, Katharine Blunt, who had come as president the September before, was inaugurated with all fit ceremony. "Fourteen hundred friends of the faculty and of the students formed the great body of the audience; but the notable gathering of delegates from other institutions of learning—long established and widely scattered —was perhaps even more flattering. In this group appeared the executives of seventeen universities and colleges; . . . deans, other high administrative officers, and principals represented more than eighty other universities, colleges, and preparatory schools. . . .*

Katharine Blunt had taken her first degree at Vassar in 1898, had been a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and after periods of teaching at Vassar and Pratt Institute, became a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Chicago in 1907. She was engaged in war work with the United States Department of Agriculture in 1917, and with the Food Administration the following year. From 1913 to 1929 she was connected with the department of home economics at the University of Chicago, as professor and later as chairman. From this position she came to Connecticut College. Her scientific work and interests made

* From "A Report on the Inauguration of President Blunt," by Gertrude E. Noyes, '25, in the Connecticut College Bulletin for June 30, 1930.

her a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; an ex-president and member of the council of the American Home Economics Association; a member of the Biochemical Society, the American Chemical Society, the National Education Association, the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, Omicron Nu, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. She is part author of the following books: Food and the War (1918) and Ultra-Violet Light and Vitamin D in Nutrition (1930). During her years as president at Connecticut College she has served also as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Ocean Beach Park Board. She has twice been awarded an LL.D., honoris causa, by Wesleyan (1936) and Mount Holyoke (1937). The aim of her administration has been to improve conditions for intellectual work at the college. The pursuance of this aim seemed to compel President Blunt to work first toward a large increase in the physical equipment, and a marked development of the financial resources of the institution. She has displayed unusual ability to balance a constantly increasing budget, even during the serious depression that came between the two World Wars. In this difficult period her resolution and single-mindedness carried the college through. From 1929 to 1942 inclusive, with her indefatigable energy, and her official shovel, she has "broken ground" no less than eighteen times. During these years the college may be said to have attained maturity in various ways, and has ceased to be or seem a "new college."

Two men who have served in succession on the Board of Trustees must be mentioned particularly for their cooperation with President Blunt in achieving these results. Mr. George S. Palmer of New London became a trustee in 1918,

and when he resigned the office of president of the board in 1931, after holding it for ten years, he remained honorary chairman until his death in January, 1934. Dr. Blunt writes of him: "During the ten years of his chairmanship . . . Mr. Palmer constantly gave devoted attention to college interests . . . The beautiful Palmer Library presented by him and Mrs. Palmer in 1923 is the center of the intellectual life of the college . . ." To succeed Mr. Palmer, the board chose as its presiding officer, Mr. Harrison B. Freeman, A.B., LL.B., of Hartford, who had been a trustee since 1923, and chairman of the Development Committee which was appointed in the fall of 1930 to make plans for the future. In the years that followed until his death in 1942, Mr. Freeman continued to give much time and energy to the institution, making it his central interest, bearing responsibility and to an unusual degree showing real devotion.

During the third administration many specific and visible advances have been made. In the pages that follow some of these changes are presented, listed in several general groups, rather than in chronological order.

First, in Regard to the Faculty

"In 1929-30 we had 10 professors, 10 associate professors, 11 assistant professors and 19 instructors. The corresponding figures for 1941-42 are 17, 17, 20, 19½. This gives an increase of 47% in these four ranks, in contrast to the 34.6% increase in students. The group of young assistants has more than doubled meantime, something which means relief of the teaching faculty from many details of laboratory preparation and other less skilled duties which they had to carry when the college was young. Two research associates recently added, also, mean gain in intellectual interest and scientific

productivity. If these two and all assistants are included, the increase amounts to 53%. During the past twelve years, salaries of faculty (including assistants, etc.) have been increased 68%. Better still, if we include the contribution of the college to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, which we joined in 1930, the increase in salaries becomes 76%." *

The beginning of a fund for faculty study and research has been provided by the college, and has been used to advantage by its beneficiaries; appropriations for the study of plant hormone problems by the Department of Botany have come also from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Dow Chemical Company. In 1941 appeared the first number of the Connecticut College Monograph Series, established for the purpose of publishing the results of scholarly research. The first named professorship has been established. More faculty offices and classrooms were made available when Fanning Hall was opened in 1930, and space was expanded further when Frederic Bill Hall was completed in 1939. Two small, modern apartment houses for faculty members have been built; and a section of the north campus has been laid out for a residential development. Six private houses have been completed there. In the late summer of 1942, three houses, suitable for occupancy by five families, were secured by the college, moved to college ground near Holmes Hall, and made ready for occupancy by faculty members.

Second, in Regard to the Library

In 1941 the long-anticipated additions to the original library were built. "Our great new building project this fall

* From Report of the President and Other Officers to the Board of Trustees, September 30, 1941, pp. 8-9.

is the expansion of the Palmer Library with the three wings to the east, west and north. Few of us realized how much the additions would improve the appearance of the whole campus . . . Mr. and Mrs. George S. Palmer, donors of the original library and of the fund for the east and west additions, had rare wisdom both architecturally and educationally when they looked forward to this growth. The recent grant from the Carnegie Corporation has also been used for the library. What the enlarged facilities will do for our teaching, we are only just beginning to realize . . . Our library has grown since 1929-30 from 41,389 to 91,167 books; from 74 books per student to 120; from 6 to 12 staff members, ready to give help to readers; and much in space for concentrated, sustained work. The improved work space is shown in our 96 little carrels, each with a fluorescent light given by the class of 1938; the open stacks, well lighted and ventilated, the seminar rooms, the beautiful reference rooms furnished chiefly by the graduation gift of the class of 1941 . . . I quote here from the annual report of Miss Lavina Stewart, librarian: While the actual new construction may be considered to consist of the three added wings, yet with the changes necessitated in the old building to make the whole a unit, we really have a new library with excellent facilities. To forecast now the influence of this building in scholarly undergraduate work, in research, and in the general enjoyment of reading in our whole community would be impossible. . . . The new stack room of five levels will house 175,000 volumes, and the shelving in reading and reference rooms will take 25,000 more." *

The annual library budget has grown from $21,050 in 1928-29 to over $35,000 for 1941-42 (both figures exclusive

* From the Report of the President and Other Officers, September 30, 1941, p. 16.

of expenditure for maintenance of the building); the total library collection including pamphlets in 1942 numbers over 130,000.

Third, with Special Reference to the Students

A Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa was installed in 1935, the Delta of Connecticut; an alternative system of honors offering more opportunity to able students for original investigation, independent study courses, reading periods in regular courses, a final general examination in the major field beginning with the class of 1939, and arrangements for summer apprenticeships in public affairs, economics, home economics, and business have developed. An enlarged observatory and a new telescope came in 1933, soon to be succeeded, it is hoped, by the dome and telescope planned for the top of Frederic Bill Hall. The completion of this latest addition to the buildings specifically for instruction brought in 1939 new laboratories for psychology and physics, larger and more fully equipped, as well as new and more commodious studios for fine arts. Laboratories in New London Hall as a consequence have been re-arranged and newly furnished for work in botany, zoology, chemistry and home economics, and a practice greenhouse, with a plant hormone even-temperature underground laboratory of two rooms, heavily insulated, free from outside light and completely air-conditioned, has been added.

The arboretum (its development began in 1931) which in its ninety acres contains specimens of nearly every tree and shrub indigenous to Connecticut, exhibits also along its 1.6 miles of mowed paths some two hundred species of native perennials; several miles of rough trails within its borders tempt the rider and the hiker; Buck Lodge, a rustic stone

structure at the north end of the lake, can serve as a field laboratory for classes in field biology, or other science classes, besides its use as an adjunct to the outdoor theatre, and for winter sports. It is approached through the Washington Memorial Entrance to the arboretum, built by the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution in 1932, which leads down to the theatre and the lake by grassy steps between rows of cedar and mountain laurel. The Caroline Black Garden, including the iris collection, the dahlia collection, the rock garden and the pool, has been greatly enlarged, and furnishes not only a beautiful setting for certain small dormitories and faculty houses, but further facilities to the botany majors for study and experimentation.

A nursery school has been established on the campus, partly as an observation laboratory for students whose major interest is in child development. In 1933 for the first time a consulting psychiatrist was added to the college staff. As long ago as 1931 a trained manager of experience was secured for the small store dealing in textbooks and class supplies only, previously managed by students, and it has developed into a delightful and well-equipped college bookshop. Annually substantial prizes are offered for the best personal library collected by a senior and best representing the individual interests of the owner. Holmes Hall in 1940 was remodelled for the exclusive use of the music department.

As to Student Living Accommodations

"In the autumn of 1929 we used fourteen small houses not owned by the college and not on the campus. We had only eight dormitories of our own, three of them very small, five good-sized. All of the 174 resident freshmen and 52 sophomores then lived off campus, and 290 students lived in cam-

pus dormitories. With forty percent of our resident students, and these the younger ones, unsatisfactorily housed at a distance from classes, laboratories, the library, and from the social life of the older students on campus, we were confronted in 1929 with a great many difficult problems which subsequent campus dormitories have gradually solved. There is no question but that the . . . new buildings have not only contributed to the social education of the college student but have stimulated her intellectual life." *

Since 1933 seven dormitories have been built (Windham, Mary Harkness, Jane Addams, 1937, Emily Abbey, Grace Smith, and East House), bringing in 1940 all resident students into college buildings. North Cottage has been twice enlarged so that it now accommodates 31. Student dormitory libraries for limited reference and general reading have been started in each house and in the Commuters' Rooms in Fanning Hall. In 1933, Mosier House (rented by the college) was made into a cooperative dormitory for twenty-one students. Six years later, these rented quarters were superseded by the delightful Emily Abbey House on the campus, a cooperative home for twenty-six students with one member of the faculty from the department of home economics. This arrangement, together with the increase in scholarship awards to over $33,000 annually, including the Robinson Scholarships for freshmen, first available in 1930, indicates that superior students of limited means are encouraged to enroll. For about the last ten years the opportunity for remunerative work available to self-help students has been greatly increased also by government funds.

In 1939 the Frank Loomis Palmer Auditorium, a memorial to an early trustee, was built from the bequest of Mr.

* From the Report of the President and Other Officers, September 30, 1941, pp. 4-5.

Palmer's daughter, Virginia Palmer. It is completely equipped for use as a theatre, for the presentation of sound films, and for concerts. It contains also classrooms for courses in speech. Harkness Chapel, the second gift of Mrs. Mary Stillman Harkness, was opened in 1940 for morning chapel, Sunday vesper services, and afternoon organ recitals. The religious library, the choir room, and the study of the college preacher are located on the ground floor.

As to Degrees, Admission Procedure and Numbers

During the present administration, new work has been added in all departments. The courses in government have expanded into an independent government major; the child development major is a combination from courses in home economics, psychology, and physiology, with observation and practice in the nursery school. Through the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation special courses in retailing with vacation apprenticeships have been added to the fundamental work in economics. Extension courses to meet the needs and interests of local citizens have come to be a regular part of each year's program. Instead of the bachelor's degree in both science and arts, as formerly conferred, it was voted some years ago to give the Bachelor of Arts to all graduates whatever the major interest and the requirement of entrance work in Latin was at that time withdrawn. In 1930, a decision was made to award the master's degree to properly qualified students, and in June, 1933, the first M.A.'s were given for work in course.

One new feature of our admission procedure is the recent requirement (1939) from all entrants of the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board as a regular part of the entrance credentials. In December, 1940,

the Director of Admissions wrote: "Anyone looking at the report of the secretary of the board will be impressed by the total number who took some tests or examinations last year with Connecticut named as the college of first choice—623, a number exceeded by only three colleges for women and by only four universities for men. Likewise in the number taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test, Connecticut ranked eighth among the colleges named as first choice, being exceeded only by Harvard, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Wellesley, Princeton, and Vassar."

During the last thirteen years, while the main effort has been to strengthen what the college already had without further expansion in numbers, the student body has increased to 700 resident and 55 day students, a total of 755, representing thirty-four states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and five foreign countries. The college had in 1942 2,511 graduates, and about 1,900 non-graduates are on the list in the alumnae office. There are seventeen organized chapters of Connecticut College alumnae: Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Fairfield County in Connecticut, Hartford, Meriden and Wallingford, New Haven, New Jersey, New London, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, Washington, D.C., Waterbury, and Westchester County in New York.

Summer Work on the Campus

In the summer of 1941 for the first time in its history, the college undertook three vacation enterprises. (a) At the Latin American Institute, organized at the request and with the cooperation of the Coordinator of Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics, a distinguished group of speakers was assembled for five days of lec-

tures and discussions. (b) The Summer Institute for Plant Hormone Investigation brought to the campus six graduate students, two from Mexico City, and one from Pretoria, South Africa, for eight weeks of work with five members of the botany staff. The results of this research will be published later. (c) The Summer Secretarial School which lasted six weeks was attended by thirty-two students, representing sixteen different colleges. In addition to this, the Connecticut League of Women Voters held its two-day institute for the ninth year at the college, and the State Federation of Garden Clubs its fifth summer school, this latter under the direction of the college department of botany. The summer of 1942 saw again a summer school, "The Connecticut College War Session", of eight weeks, "for training chemists, statisticians, accountants, nursery school teachers, and high-grade secretaries". Perhaps this is the place to record that in addition to the League of Women Voters and the Garden Clubs, already mentioned, Connecticut College has during recent years been the host, for various periods both in vacation and in term time, to a large number and a great variety of organizations, ranging alphabetically from the American Astronomical Association to the Vocational Guidance Association of Connecticut and Rhode Island. The college itself has initiated and carried through certain conferences, for example: "On Professional Opportunities for Women Trained in Chemistry" in 1939, and "On Education of Women for Public Affairs" in 1935. Each lasted for several days and was largely attended by faculty, students, and distinguished guests and speakers from the outside.

Student Interests

General student interests and extra-curricular activities during the third administration show as they did previously the influence of general country-wide trends. Perusal of student publications for the last decade yields the following incomplete list: Intercollegiate Student Government Meetings, Intercollegiate Student Press Boards, Intercollegiate Model Assembly of the League of Nations, International Relations Club, Riding meets, Dancing as an Art, Dramatics (including Wig and Candle and competitive class plays), Politics, Ornithology Club, French movies and lectures, Psychology and other departmental clubs, American Student Union, Intercollegiate Philosophy Group, Intercollegiate debates, Student Scientific Conferences of the colleges in the Connecticut River Valley, Annual Flower Show given by the department of botany, Photography Contest, Poetry Reading Groups (both local and intercollegiate), Foreign Exchange Fellowships, Faculty-Student Curriculum Committee, Faculty-Student Forum, Service League, and Poetry Writing Group. The Connecticut College Anthology was published in October, 1935. The Student Religious Council, composed of representatives from each college house, has sponsored many activities, both occasional and regular. The following names are suggestive of these interests: Annual mid-winter religious conference, deputation work both alone and with Wesleyan or Brown, Learned Mission, Sea-side Sanitarium, and State Farm for Women at Niantic, Northfield Conference, Camp Oatka, Silver Bay, Student Volunteer Movement, New England Student Christian Movement, Student Christian Union of Connecticut Valley, World Christian Conference, and Annual Inter-Faith Month. The esprit of

the class of 1942 recounts that they "came in with the hurricane and went out with the draft," for at their Commencement time the United States was again at war. The history of Connecticut College in the second World War is still to be written, material for a later historian, but in recent months, the support of seventy Bristol orphans under the "Save the Children Federation", various activities for the Red Cross and British War Relief Society, First Aid classes, and a French Club Bazaar which netted over $900 for the New London Red Cross, have meant time and interest.

Once in a Hundred Years—the Hurricane

Extract from a letter written September 26, 1938. Last Wednesday, our opening day, I was busy at my office after my last class closed at three. It was raining, there was a wind, but I took it to be only an ordinary storm until I heard that the flag pole was down. I looked out. The tall brick smoke stack at the heating plant toppled slowly over. The windows in Fanning were already almost opaque, plastered with mud and leaves. The water was beating into the building on the south, east and north. It was getting dark, all lights and telephones were off. I looked from the basement door toward New London Hall. The greenhouse was a wreck. The rising walls of the new auditorium to the south of us fell in a heap. . . . Finally after an hour or more of waiting, some of the girls began struggling back to Plant and Blackstone. Having tied my hat on securely with a brand new office dust-cloth, I started across the campus to the west. I saw the copper roof ripped from Knowlton, rolled up like a ribbon, and tossed aside. But I did not realize that the tall hour-glass elm between Knowlton and the library crashed down across the road. It was no longer raining but the wind came

in terrible gusts. I was blown down, rose again, only to be caught up like a leaf by the next gust. Again I got control of myself, dug my heels in, put my head down and pushed along . . . As I approached Williams Street, by the Woodhouse drive, I saw two of the biggest elms and two street poles with all their wires down between me and the other side. The roots of the trees and the sod around them stood up ten or twelve feet leaving tremendous holes. Everything seemed dark green. I had the sensation that the world was tipping up on end. It wasn't credible. But I couldn't stand still because of the wind. . . . I edged along down the road a little, close to the wall. Porches were gone, bricks and blinds and glass scattered everywhere, . . . but I reached home. . . . Some of the faculty didn't get home at all that night, but President Blunt managed to visit every dormitory and personally checked up on every girl. . . . The last tropical hurricane that visited New London, they say, was in the early eighteen hundreds, so we don't need to worry about another right away. . . .

From the President's Report in the fall of 1938: "The morale of students and staff was very fine, even during the difficult two days when we were without light, heat, water pressure, and telephone. Those opening days knit the college together more than many months of normal living, thanks largely to the excellent work of the service staffs—engineers, power plant men, dietitians, janitors; of the librarians who worked in a congestion which the students compared to the Grand Central Terminal, when the library was the only building we attempted to give much light; of the faculty who taught their classes 'as usual'; and of the students themselves who kept their heads throughout. Through the fortunate action of the business manager we had cyclone in-

surance, having paid only one set of premiums, $72, and we have received $41,400 in full payment of our building losses.

"Our trees were not covered by the insurance, nor our vines, and they are the loss hardest to bear. The gifts of parents, faculty, and students have helped in the expense of rehabilitation. The main campus lost a good many important trees, but we rejoice in the safety of the elms in front of the library (Junior Mascot of the class of 1935), the great elm immediately west of Knowlton . . . The loss of most of the large hemlocks in Bolleswood . . . is what we especially mourn." From the Report of the President and Other Officers to the Board of Trustees, December 30, 1939: "Originally there were 130 trees in the hemlock grove, but of the 18 which remained last year only three are now alive . . . Careful study of the growth rings of these ancient trees revealed that all of any size were 150 years or more of age; several as much as 200 years."

Twenty-fifth Anniversary

In October, 1940, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the college was celebrated. The two-day program included the luncheons, dinners, and speeches fitting to such an occasion. All the buildings were kept open, with many exhibitions on display, including at the auditorium two rooms, one for paintings by alumnae, and another for textiles and crafts by alumnae; in Bill Hall, photographs by alumnae; in New London Hall, collections of zoological and ethnological material, from Bermuda waters, from South America, Hawaii, and elsewhere, collected and prepared, or assembled, by alumnae; in the library, publications by alumnae. At the service in the chapel on Sunday morning, the

following "Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Litany" composed by the Reverend Paul F. Laubenstein, College Preacher, was used:

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY LITANY

MINISTER: Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and Everlasting God, Source of all truth, Light of lights;
By whose Spirit man is taught wisdom;
Inspirer of every good work, and Guarantor of its increase;
Who livest in all high aspiration and noble enterprise—
Thou hast made us glad through Thy works,
And we rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hands.

CHOIR: Worthy art Thou to be praised, Lord of wisdom and power. Amen.

MINISTER: And especially do we praise Thee now for this Thy work, the commemoration of which draws us together on this occasion. O Thou who dost ever prosper each endeavor in accord with Thy gracious will for mankind, to Thee appertaineth both now and at all times our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and for Thine abundant mercies and loving-kindness to us throughout the years, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name.

CHOIR: Worthy art Thou to be praised, Lord of wisdom and power. Amen.

TRUSTEE: WILBUR L. CROSS

For the founders of this college, who dreamed a dream, and toiled in faith until at length they gave substance to that dream; who laid lasting foundations, and built well upon

them; for those who, since, have seen and understood the dream, and have undergirded the college with the gifts which have made possible its work, strengthened the hands of its leaders, empowered the labors of its teachers, and reared structures of steel and stone to be laboratories for the cultivation of its enduring spirit; for state and nation, under the protection of whose laws the college has pursued its tasks in assurance of security, peace and freedom—

CHOIR: We laud and magnify Thy glorious name; and evermore give praise and thanks to Thee, O Lord most high.

PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE:

For all who through the years have given their lives to the teaching of youth in this college; who, dedicated to sound scholarship and true learning, have pointed the way to achievement in the lives of many; who by steadfast devotion to lofty ideals have inspired with truth and beauty those who looked to them for guidance, and whose devotion has become an inseparable part of our college heritage, we give Thee thanks and praise, O Lord.

And we pray for all who in the present hour of trial are helping to maintain this heritage, that sustained by a living faith in Thee, they may be of good courage, may be loyal to its vital traditions and to the highest meanings of life here unfolded; and in realization of a great opportunity and challenge, may show themselves worthy of all whose labors have contributed to establish this place of privilege.

CHOIR: We bless Thee Lord for all Thy lovingkindness, and seek Thy benediction to abide with us for aye; O Lord most holy.

PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION:

ELIZABETH GALLUP RIDLEY, '28

For the presence of our Alma Mater in this commonwealth; for all those who have planned and toiled and sacrificed

that young women might here engage in the quest of truth and of life abundant, and who have labored that generations yet to come might enter into their labors; for that goodly and sustaining fellowship of those who have gone forth from this hilltop by the sea, carrying its message and its power and its ideals to the uttermost parts of the earth, whose lives bear witness to its beauty and its strength, and whose eager dreams and strivings have been woven inextricably into the living texture of this institution—

CHOIR: We laud and magnify Thy glorious name; and evermore give praise and thanks to Thee, O Lord most high.

PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

JANET FLETCHER, '41

For calling forth this college in our time, O Lord; for the privilege of helping to promote its life; for benefits accruing from active membership in its community; for quickening contacts here made with companions and teachers, and with the best that has been thought and experienced in past and present; for abiding and enriching friendships here formed; for expanding horizons and deeper insights into the nature of Reality; for visions of goals worthy of life's commitment; for new and stimulating glimpses of Thy manifold Truth and of Thee, begetting more adequate standards of evaluation and a more sensitive social conscience; for these and all other blessings of participation in college life, we give Thee thanks and praise, O Lord.

And we pray that Thou wilt grant us the will in this present hour of trial to maintain well this our heritage, courage to be loyal to its vital traditions and to the highest meanings of life here unfolded, strength to improve the opportunity which is ours and to respond constructively to the challenge of our times, and so fulfil the expectations of those who have put their trust in us.

CHOIR: We bless Thee Lord for all Thy lovingkindness, and seek Thy benediction to abide with us for aye; O Lord most holy.

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION: ALLEN B. LAMBDIN

For this household of learning, to maintain which the labor of both mind and hand is required, and to promote whose welfare material needs must also be met; for all those whose faithfulness to appointed tasks, by night and by day, in calm and in storm has served to meet such needs; for those whose it was and is to enhance the natural beauty of the campus for our inspiration; for all those who unseen and unsung have built their lives into this college, and whose service has enabled it to fill its fitting place in the world—

CHOIR: We laud and magnify Thy glorious name; and evermore give praise and thanks to Thee, O Lord most high.

The Congregation standing and joining in the responses.

MINISTER: That this college may be as a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth good fruits of the mind and Spirit at all seasons, we pray Thee; and ask that Thou wilt bless and preserve it and all colleges and universities dedicated to the advancement of sound learning, gentle manners, and the honorable investment of life.

And to this end we seek Thy benediction:

Upon all who guard the truths which were known of old,

CONGREGATION: That as good stewards of that knowledge, they may confirm us in simple and righteous living;

MINISTER: Upon those who prepare themselves to receive new disclosures of Thy Truth,

CONGREGATION: That they may be sustained in their searching by the faith that Thou art, and that Thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee;

MINISTER: Upon all scientists looking upon the face of nature,

CONGREGATION: That they may see order in its variety and law in its constancy, and may teach men to live upon the earth in confidence and without fear;

MINISTER: Upon all historians, telling again the story of the past with sincerity and sympathy,

CONGREGATION: That they, with us, may help to bind the generations together in one communion of Thy real sons;

MINISTER: Upon those who unlock the literary storehouses of mankind,

CONGREGATION: That they may place their treasures at the disposal of the human race for the improvement of its mental, moral and spiritual estate;

MINISTER: Upon all builders, poets, painters and makers of music,

CONGREGATION: That they may open our blind eyes and unstop our deaf ears to the beauty of Thy creation;

MINISTER: Upon all who would lead man's long thoughts beyond the things that are known into the world which is unknown,

CONGREGATION: That their faith may prepare for us a place in the infinite Mystery.

CHOIR: We bless Thee Lord for all Thy lovingkindness, and seek Thy benediction to abide with us for aye; O Lord most holy.

MINISTER: Prayer of Confidence

O Thou great Companion of our future, as of our past, Author of liberty, grant us evermore to know the Truth in

Christ Jesus that sets and keeps men free; grant that the life of this institution may increasingly develop according to His mind and spirit in which is perfect freedom, that in Thy light we may see light, may fulfil the conditions under which we may expect Thy blessing to continue, accomplish our destined mission in the world, and from age to age be an increasing honor to the nation, to mankind and to Thee.

And now with a prayer of gratitude for all that Thou hast enabled this college to be and for the promise of what by Thy grace it may become, and in the confidence of Thy continuing guidance so long as its aim is godly and true, we unite our hearts and voices in our common song of trust in Thee, the Ancient of Days, sole Ground of our hope and faith for the future. Amen.

TRIBUTES TO PRESIDENT BLUNT

From a Governor Who Is Also a Trustee

In June, 1936, Wesleyan University at Middletown, Connecticut, for the third time in its long history awarded an honorary degree to a woman. On this occasion, His Excellency, Governor Wilbur L. Cross, who has been a trustee of Connecticut College since 1917, spoke as follows: "Mr. President, I have the honor to present, for the degree of doctor of laws, Katharine Blunt, president of Connecticut College. A New Englander by descent, a Philadelphian by birth, Miss Blunt received her bachelor's degree from Vassar College and the degree of doctor of philosophy from the University of Chicago for studies in organic chemistry which gave her the knowledge and training for important research in nutrition.

"After experience as an instructor in chemistry at Vassar

and the Pratt Institute, she was appointed to the faculty of the University of Chicago, rising in due time to the rank of professor. During the next sixteen years, she developed in the Graduate School at Chicago one of the best departments of home economics in our American universities. During the period of the World War, she cooperated with the Federal Government as an expert in nutrition.

"In 1929 Professor Blunt was called to the presidency of Connecticut College. She brought to this office experience in the organization of studies and standards of sound scholarship. She has devoted herself to the intellectual, moral, and physical welfare of her students. By her efforts, funds have been obtained for new dormitories on a beautiful campus overlooking the Thames. Withal, she has kept expenditures well within income.

"As scholar, educator, and administrator, President Blunt is worthy of the honor you are about to confer upon her."

From the Campus After Thirteen Years

A woman of judgment, of social instinct, of snap and vigor; sometimes imperious, sometimes flashing fire, the true daughter of an army colonel; a woman able to do a man's work with the encouragement a man needs, or without it; a cheerful hostess to perennial guests; in fine, a woman able to grapple with the impossible task of being President and Mrs. President, too.

Finis

CALENDAR OF THE PHYSICAL GROWTH OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

1915	New London Hall
	Plant House
	Blackstone House
	Thames Hall and Refectory
	Heating Plant
1916	Winthrop House
1917	Gymnasium
1919	North Cottage
	Branford House
1922	Vinal Cottage
1923	Palmer Library
1925	Knowlton House (first known as Colonial House)
1926	Observatory
1929	Holmes Hall
	Ewald House acquired as residence for president
	Botanical Garden started (later made a memorial to Caroline Black)
1930	Fanning Hall
	New heating plant
	New tennis courts (north of reservoir)
1931	Connecticut Arboretum started in Bolleswood
	College carpenter shop erected
1932	Washington Entrance to the Arboretum
1933	Windham House
	Outdoor Theatre in Arboretum

1934 Mary Harkness House
Woodworth House turned over to college and occupied by Institute of Women's Professional Relations
1935 Greenhouse and Plant Hormone Research Laboratory
North Cottage enlarged to double its capacity
1936 Jane Addams House
Holmes Hall, northern half fitted up for Music Department
Fifteen and two-thirds acres, brook addition to Arboretum
The Stables
1937 1937 House
1938 Buck Lodge in Arboretum
Nursery School house equipped and opened
Power house rebuilt and enlarged
1939 Frederic Bill Hall
Frank Loomis Palmer Auditorium
Emily Abbey House
First faculty apartment house
1940 Harkness Chapel
Grace Smith House
East House
Holmes Hall made over as a music building
1941 Three wings added to Palmer Library
Leib house joined as a south annex to North Cottage
Second faculty apartment house
1942 Faculty wing added to East House

University of
Connecticut
Libraries